

KULCHA

MULTICULTURAL ARTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

06

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**



KULCHA ROCKS THE QUARRY



Triple ARIA Award winning group Monsieur Camembert (pictured above) and French Cabaret diva Pascale (pictured below) are set to rock the Quarry Amphitheatre for KULCHA's annual *Bleu Blanc Rouge Soirée* on Saturday 18 November.

By popular demand, KULCHA returns to the fabulous surrounds of the Quarry Amphitheatre on Saturday 18 November with the *Bleu Blanc Rouge Soirée*. We are very pleased to announce that we are hosting the fabulous and highly energetic Monsieur Camembert in their only Perth show on this tour. We thank Jubilee Mines NL for their much valued support of this event which enables KULCHA to present quality arts events to WA audiences. I hope you can join us at the Quarry under the stars to enjoy the infectious energy of Monsieur Camembert, along with the illustrious Pascale and her dynamic band.

Nominations for the 2008 kultour touring program are now open to artists. Established by the Australia Council in 2001 as an initiative of the *Arts in a Multicultural Australia* policy, kultour is a national, not-for-profit company dedicated to touring multicultural performance and visual art. The program allows local professional artists to reach new audiences and, in turn, allows Australian audiences to gain insight into the exciting multicultural work that is currently on offer in the arts in Australia. If you are interested in applying, please contact us to discuss your application. Guidelines and application forms are available from the kultour website – www.kultour.com.au.



Finally, our congratulations go to long-term KULCHA member Lena Trajkovska for reaching a 10 year milestone with the Golden Koala Children's Festival. Lena's commitment to this event has been integral in fostering young talent and promoting community harmony. We wish her all the best for future events.

I hope you enjoy a KULCHA performance, event or workshop soon!

Loretta Martella
GENERAL MANAGER

KULCHA's mission is to celebrate cultural diversity through the enjoyment and development of multicultural arts.

Images from the inaugural Balingup World Music in September. KULCHA coordinated a quality program of world music artists for a sell-out show which was enthusiastically received by the local community. (L-R) Premala Sangaranda, Balvinder Singh and Vick Ramakrishnan. Joys of the Women and maestro Elie Kouneiher. West African drum and dance group, Akwaaba.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KULCHA has faced a significant milestone in the last month, with Suresh Rajan stepping down as President and from the Board of KULCHA. Suresh is well known in WA political circles as a strong advocate for multiculturalism and a tireless campaigner on behalf of WA's migrant communities. He brought this sense of purpose to the KULCHA Board, and made sure that the organisation was where it belongs, in the foreground of the multicultural landscape in Western Australia. KULCHA will miss his passion and enthusiasm, and we wish him all the best in his many ongoing endeavours.

Subsequent to Suresh's departure I have assumed the Chair of the Board of Management for the moment, but this can only be a temporary measure owing to pressures of various other jobs and activities, paid and otherwise. The KULCHA Board will be undergoing a Board audit over the next couple of months to ascertain the skills required to lead the organisation into the future. We look forward to shaping the Board to focus on meeting challenges and building opportunities for the organisation.

I would like to welcome Michael Anderson to the KULCHA Board, who has taken on the role of Treasurer. Michael is a Chartered Accountant and has a wide range of experience, including being the former Commissioner of the City of Joondalup; former Board Member of the State Supply Commission of Western Australia; Member of the Western Australian Regulation Review Panel; and Adjunct Associate Professor The John Curtin Institute for Public Policy, Curtin University of Technology. I would also like to congratulate another Board member, Shelagh Magadza, on her appointment as Lindy Hume's successor at the helm of the Perth International Arts Festival. Currently Associate Director of PIAF, Shelagh has extensive experience in Festival management through various roles in New Zealand, Zimbabwe and the UK over the past thirteen years. KULCHA is very proud to be associated with her, and we wish her all the very best in her exciting new job. Here's looking forward to some breathtaking world music and multicultural arts content at PIAF in the next few years.

Steve Barnes, Acting President

The KULCHA office now has a new IT system thanks to Lotterywest.



KULCHA's Multicultural Arts Officer, Sarah Wilkinson, gearing up for a big day at work with one of the eight new computers.



ARTIST PROFILE



Lena Trajkovska

Fremantle music teacher and professional singer/songwriter Lena Trajkovska has made a significant contribution to the multicultural communities of Western Australia through the renowned Golden Koala Children's group. This year, Lena and her students celebrate a milestone with the tenth anniversary of the Golden Koalas.

"All my life has been about music – I survive with music," says Lena, who first performed professionally at the age of 12 on *Yugoslavia TV* in Belgrade. "I find happiness in sharing my music with the community."

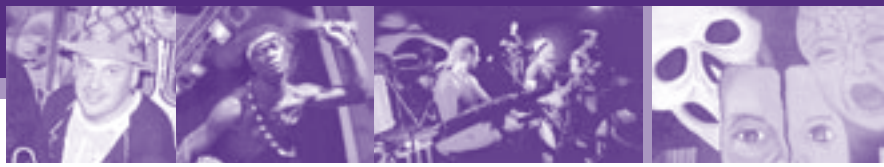
Lena first arrived in Australia in 1991. She lived and performed in Sydney for four years before moving to Fremantle where she founded the Golden Koala group in 1995. What started as a means of celebrating Macedonian customs and traditions and providing Macedonian youth with an opportunity to develop their music and dance skills soon expanded to include other cultural groups.

"Many new migrants are locked in their communities and don't share their culture or engage with others," says Lena. "Music is a beautiful way of bringing people together to celebrate their culture – particularly the youth as they are our future. If we don't express who we are and share our traditions, then our cultures will disappear."

"I founded the Golden Koala group to celebrate cultural diversity and promote peace and harmony among young people," says Lena. "This is Australia – a beautiful, colourful land filled with different cultures. Our children need an opportunity to celebrate their culture and feel proud to be Australian at the same time."

Ten years later and the Golden Koala Children's Festival is one of Perth's foremost multicultural youth events. Held annually at the Fremantle Town Hall, the festival aims to encourage migrant communities to support their young people in cultural performance thereby keeping traditions alive and fostering young talent at the same time.

To celebrate the tenth successful year of the festival, KULCHA will host a showcase event on Sunday 12 November at 7pm. Come and experience a heartfelt cultural performance from some of Perth's most talented up and coming young artists. Tickets available by phoning (08) 9336 4544 or online at www.kulcha.com.au



VISUAL ARTS

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND – Adam Janali ‘Ozala’

Adam Ozala is a Hazara refugee who fled Afghanistan in 2001 to escape the slaughter of the Hazara ethnic minority. Upon arriving in Australia, Ozala was admitted to the Port Hedland detention centre where he waited for his claim for asylum to be approved. As he witnessed the despair and depression of those around him, Ozala quickly recognised the need to keep his self occupied and establish some structure and routine to his otherwise empty days. After three months in detention, Ozala found an answer – drawing political cartoons.

“I found a newspaper and saw a cartoon of group of children with Philip Ruddock. I found it very evocative but couldn’t express myself because I did not know the English language,” says Ozala. “This is when I thought that I should start to draw. I started with cartoons – drawing over 90 while I was in detention. Then, thanks to friends, I received materials for painting and began to express myself on canvas.”

Ozala lived at the Port Hedland detention centre for two and half years before being transferred to the Baxter detention centre in South Australia. In late 2004, Ozala was granted a temporary protection visa and returned to Perth where he was assisted by friends he’d met through letter-writing in detention.

“When I first arrived it was very hard for me as I had to build a new life in a place where I did not speak the language and had no family. It was a different culture – a different environment,” said Ozala. “Most of all, I missed the sense of community I had known in my village. There we were all one family but in Perth it is not like that.”



Since coming out of detention, Ozala has continued to paint to express his feelings on humanity and the importance of freedom. His art goes beyond the pain and suffering of refugees to other marginalised groups including Perth’s homeless.

“If you come to the exhibition you will see some of the paintings I created when I was in detention but you will also see paintings that reflect people within our society who are currently living without peace,” says Ozala. “When I walk around Perth I see homeless people and many others who are searching for a peaceful life. My art is not just about refugees – it is about humanity and the needs we all share.”

Out of Sight, Out of Mind an exhibition of paintings by Ozala will be on display at KULCHA until 30 November. To commemorate Refugee Week, KULCHA will host an official opening of the exhibition on Thursday 26 October at 6.30pm. All welcome, please RSVP to KULCHA on (08) 9336 4544 or email admin@kulcha.com.au

“I invite people to come to the exhibition so they can learn about an issue that is often forgotten or pushed to the back of our minds,” says Ozala. “I want it to inspire them to look at people and see them for who they are – not for their religion, but as a human being.”



Freedom Beggar, oil on canvas.



Children in Detention, oil on canvas.





REGIONAL TOURS – A TASTE OF INDIA

Primary and secondary schools in the Warren-Blackwood and Albany Districts were treated to Indian Sitar and Tabla workshops in October as part of KULCHA's *Discover the World* Multicultural Education program. Artists Balvinder Singh and Vick Ramakrishnan visited Nannup, Bridgetown, Walpole, Albany and Mount Barker to teach students about Indian music and culture through live performance and group discussion.

The response to the workshops was overwhelmingly positive. "The performances were exceptional and allowed the opportunity for us to learn about the instruments and the culture behind the music," said John Eaton from Nannup Senior High. "It was a truly educational experience and a very rare opportunity for the children to gain an insight into a culture that is very different to their own, while at the same time, being entertained by some beautiful music."

Vick Ramakrishnan trained in India under the guidance of Ustad Hanif Mohamed Mirajkar – son of the legendary tabla wizard Ustad Mehboob Khan Saheb. Vick is currently a tabla teacher and performing artist with the Temple of Fine Arts. With over 22 years of experience including performances all over the world, Vick is considered one of Australia's finest tabla performers.

Born in Malaysia, Balvinder Singh started learning the sitar at age 13. After two years of intensive training he began learning sitar under two of the great masters, Raj Kumar Sharma and Samuel J Dass. A medical student at UWA, Balvinder is involved in a number of musical collaborations including The Hybrid Collective and the Bombay Chill Lounge.

If you are interested in booking an Indian Sitar and Tabla workshop for your school or community group, please email our programming officer Brooke Kelly on programming@kulcha.com.au KULCHA's *Discover the World* Multicultural Education program offers a wide range of in-school workshops and performances for both metropolitan and regional areas. For a full list of artists and available workshops please visit our website at www.kulcha.com.au



Balvinder Singh and Vick Ramakrishnan.

A SUMMER OF WORLD MUSIC ... KULCHA ON SWAN

Pack a picnic and head to the City of Swan for another series of free outdoor multicultural concerts! First held in 2002, the KULCHA on Swan annual program is a vibrant showcase of some of Perth's best world music artists. This year's program includes Latin jazz/funk band Sabroson, Brazilian party band Sambalicious, Gypsy folk from the Kashtany Duo, Ghanaian drum and dance group WALA direct from West Africa. Presented by KULCHA and the City of Swan, the series will commence on Saturday 4 November and continue until Saturday 31 March, 2007. For a full program of events please visit the KULCHA website – www.kulcha.com.au



Sambalicious will perform at the annual KULCHA on Swan Series.

KULCHA CONNECTIONS



Paul Osei (right) and workshop participants welcomed attendees with a hand from OMI's Paul Rafferty.

In September, KULCHA hosted a showcase event in Koondoola celebrating project outcomes from the KULCHA Connections program. Attendees at the event enjoyed a sample of the digital stories that were created by the Mirrabooka community as part of the SCAPES project. Community dance group Asembi gave an enthusiastic performance while Paul Osei Kofi and his students energised the audience with African rhythms learnt during Paul's drum making workshops. Later in the event costumes created by the Sudanese Madi ethnic Women Society of Western Australia were exhibited illustrating the skills learnt as part of the emerging artist's performance support program.

KULCHA would like to extend thanks to artists Francis Italiano, Tamara Desiatov, Paul Osei Kofi and Lorelle Sinclair for their amazing work over the past 12 months. We would also like to acknowledge the work of Caroline Spiers from the Department of Community Development and the support of Anglicare, The Smith Family, the Koondoola Intensive English Centre at Koondoola Primary School, Swan Nyungar Sports Education Project at Balga Senior High School, the Salvation Army and the Koondoola Ratepayers and Tenants Action Group. Special thanks to the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) for their financial support of this program which enabled such diverse projects to come to fruition.

The KULCHA Connections program acknowledges the need for cultural expression and affirms the importance of advocacy, access, equity and participation in the arts for individuals and communities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Through the KULCHA Connections program KULCHA hopes to inspire communities to develop their arts and cultural practices and create positive community discussions through the arts.

If you would like to find out more about KULCHA's existing projects please email our Multicultural Arts Officer, Sarah Wilkinson at community@kulcha.com.au